



September 9, 2009

Kuipers' Resolution Asserts a Right to Independent Health Care

I recently introduced a joint resolution that would amend the Michigan Constitution to include a section that asserts a right to independent health care. Specifically, Senate Joint Resolution K would give Michigan residents the opportunity to vote on a constitutional amendment that would proclaim that "every person has a right to provide for his or her own health care."

The resolution is about preserving freedom and personal choice in making our own health care decisions. With the current discussions about universal health care, people are strongly expressing their concerns about what a public system might mean to their health care.

I believe that the best way to calm people's fears about being forced into a federal government-run health care system is to provide a right to independent health care in the state constitution.

Legislative Leaders Come to Budgetary Agreement

In response to the bipartisan, bicameral budget target agreement signed Wednesday by legislative leaders, I issued the following statement:

"This is great news for all Michigan residents. I applaud the leaders in the Senate and House that worked together to reach an agreement that will help prevent a government shutdown.

While the details still need to be worked out on which specific cuts to make, the agreement on budget targets for each department is a critically important step.

I strongly support an agreement that balances the budget by cutting spending.

Senate Republicans already voted on a budget plan that balanced the books through spending cuts. I am glad that both Senate and House leaders have agreed that cutting spending is the best plan to balance the budget."